

Kunnamkulam road are in a dangerous condition, constituting a serious menace to the people and buses that pass along that road ;

(b) will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to take immediate steps for removing the danger by having the above trees cut down ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) No.

(b) Such trees as, on periodical inspections, appear dangerous to traffic or people are removed immediately.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—May I know who is the officer who carries out such periodical inspection?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The officers of the Agricultural Department, when they note anything untoward, cut down these trees.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—May I know when did the officer last inspect the road in question?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have no information. I want notice.

Nuisance from toddy shops located near roads.

127. Mrs. Swaris.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) If it not their policy about the location of toddy shops to fix the sites sufficiently away from public roads ;

(b) had the Government received complaint about the location of the Kizhakkumpattukara toddy shop for the coming year 1108, pointing out that the site is too near the public road where 4 roads meet and that it is a source of great nuisance both to the public that have to use the road and to the people that dwell in the vicinity ;

(c) have not the petitioners pointed out a less objectionable site about 50 yards away from the public road in the very same compound that faces the public road ;

(d) what action does the Government propose to take to grant relief in the matter to the suffering public?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(a) Yes; as far as possible.

(b) Yes ;

(c) Yes; but there is not very great difference between the two sites.

(d) There are petitions and counter-petitions in regard to this matter and the question is receiving due consideration.

Mrs. Swaris.—Sir, the case of the Kizhakkumpattukara toddy shop has already been decided, but I would like to put a few supplementary questions in order to clear my doubt and also to have some information. I am not very well to-day.

May I know whether it was not possible to shift the location of the shop from this locality?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It was not possible under the present circumstances.

Mrs. Swaris.—Is it on account of the pecuniary circumstances? (*Laughter*).

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—No. The boundaries of the shop having been fixed for the year, it was not possible and the shop was located in the boundary.

Mrs. Swaris.—This toddy shop is called Kizhakkumpattukara toddy shop. I would like to know why it is called so? (*Laughter*)

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Because it is in the Kizhakkumpattukara desom.

Mrs. Swaris.—Is it not violation of the ruling of the Excise Department that this shop is allowed to continue there?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—No.

Mrs. Swaris.—How many women have signed this petition to the Diwan regarding the location of this toddy shop?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I have not ascertained.

Mrs. Swaris.—Have you seen the petition?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

Mrs. Swaris.—There were counter-petitions. May I know how many women have signed these?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I have not ascertained.

Mrs. Swaris.—It is very strange. (*Laughter*)

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is not possible to note it. I do not know whether any of them has really signed the petition. From the nature of the petition I am led to think that some of them might not have really signed it.

Mrs. Swaris.—I was also making inquiries. I used to send for the signatories to verify. I can't lecture. This is question time. Are there not a prayer hall, a place of public worship, an Industrial School for young women, etc., in very close proximity to this toddy shop?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—No, they are somewhat away.

Mrs. Swaris.—No ? (*Laughter*) How far are these ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—About a furlong.

Mrs. Swaris.—It is only a stone-throw distance from my school. And the prayer hall is just like this hall and the yonder compound (*pointing to the east*). I hope the Heads of Departments will make proper inquiries in these matters.

President.—The Hon'ble Member must confine herself to questions.

Mrs. Swaris.—How can a question be put in this case? Was not a counter petition received by the Government ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Both are got up by interested parties and both are at the instance of influential persons.

Mrs. Swaris.—I would like to see these petitions, but I can't see them.

President.—That is not a supplementary question.

Mrs. Swaris.—Was not the counter-petition got up by the toddy shop vendors and other interested parties ? No answer ? I am only studying how to put questions. No answer ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What action did the Government take with reference to that petition?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Diwan heard those petitions through vakils and passed orders.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did the Government make any inquiry ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—There was no inquiry. Both petitions were presented by vakils. The Diwan heard them and passed orders.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—In (d) it is answered that the question is under consideration. I heard the Member saying that the Diwan has passed orders.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—At the time the question was answered it was under consideration. No orders were passed at that time. Now orders have been passed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did the Hon'ble Member depend upon the signatures on the petition ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The petition was considered on the merits on the assumption that they were really signed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Was it not necessary to make inquiries and verify the signatories if he had any doubt about the signatures so that he might get it cleared ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—When a vakil appears it was not considered necessary to see whether all these have been signed. That was the reason.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did the Hon'ble Member take it that this is a matter which should be inquired into ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It was not necessary according to the Government to inquire whether all these petitioners have really signed the petitions.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What led the Hon'ble Member to cast a reflection upon the signatories?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I have not cast any reflection. I do not know whether they have really signed it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If there was any doubt, how is it that you did not make any inquiry?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Government did not think it necessary. Of course opinions may differ on this question.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In the orders passed by the Government in the Excise Committee Report, may I know whether there is any rule about the distance of the location of toddy shops?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—As far as possible, it should be 40 yards from the roadside or one or two furlongs away from churches, etc., and that is insisted upon in the case of new shops.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the distance? Is there any definiteness?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Two furlongs.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—How far is it from the public road?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Diwan has ordered that the shop will be allowed to be located only 40 yards from the roadside.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—(c). Difference to whom? Whether it is to the Department or to the public?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The difference is in distance.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—How big is the compound?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I have not measured it.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Is it about an acre?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I can't say.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Is it about fifty cents?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—We are not concerned with the extent of the compound. Suppose the area is two acres. We are only concerned with the distance from the roadside. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—So there is no very great difference on account of the distance.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The shop is now situated in a building. Just to the south of it they want to locate it in the very same compound. That is why I said there is not much difference.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—The road is on the northern side?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—And the south of it would be farther away from the road?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—No.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—They want the shop away to the south?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—They want to get rent both for the building and the vacant site.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—That is not the question.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—These petitions were put in by interested parties.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—There were numerous signatories to the petition. What they want is the shop to be removed a little farther away to the south. Is it not so?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Will it make any difference?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It will make some slight difference.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know how the Hon'ble Member came to the conclusion that the petitions were got up by interested parties?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I went to the place and both the interested parties were coming to me, one the owner of the shop and the other the persons interested in the licensee; and the Hon'ble Member himself will know it.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—How can the Hon'ble Member say this without an enquiry? Is it not an unwarranted statement?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The petitions were put in at the instance of those two parties, because the renter and owner of the building came to me.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—How is it that the Hon'ble Member justifies that these petitions were got up by interested parties?

President.—The Hon'ble Member came to the conclusion that these petitions were got up by interested parties and he stated the grounds by which he came to that conclusion.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know whether it was only from the fact that the owner and the renter came to him that he came to this conclusion about the interest these parties were taking in this matter?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I inferred.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Am I to take it that it is more a guess?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is a reasonable inference.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—May I know the materials?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—My enquiries in the matter.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did the Hon'ble Member try to find out that the signatories are real persons and whether they have really signed it?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I cannot waste my time further because it is unnecessary.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Does the Hon'ble Member believe that the lady Member is also interested?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I never submitted that.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Has she not sent a letter to the Diwan in this matter?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It appears from the proceedings that a letter was sent by her.

President.—The question time is over.

Location of toddy shops in Trichur.

128. Mrs. Swaris.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) if all toddy shops serving the Trichur Town were not located for the very start of the independent shop system at the boundaries of the then Town;

(b) have not the Town limits extended subsequently; if so, how far the Town limit has gone beyond the Kizhakkumpattukara toddy shop towards the east and south?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(a) It is not possible to say anything definite in this matter at this distant date.

(b) Yes. About six furlongs to the east and about three to four furlongs to the south.

129. Mrs. Swaris.—Will the Government be pleased to state which are the other toddy shops that serve the Trichur Town at present?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(1) Kokkala and (2) Aranattukara shops.

The beggar problem in the State.

130. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the daily increasing gravity of the beggar problem in the State;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether it has taken any steps to solve it;

(c) if steps have been taken, what are they?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) No.

(b) and (c) No answer is called for in view of the reply to sub-division (a).